

## **EFFECT OF UNAVAILABILITY OF HOSTEL ACCOMMODATION AND THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION STUDENTS IN IGNATIUS AJURU UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*This study investigated the impact of hostel accommodation unavailability on the academic performance of science education students in Ignatius Ajuru University of Education (IAUE) in Nigeria. Due to increasing students' enrollment, accommodation shortage has become a significant issue, resulting in overcrowded, substandard living conditions that may hinder students' academic performance and focus. The study is guided with 3 research questions and 3 hypotheses. The study adopts a descriptive survey design, collecting data from 300 students through structured questionnaires to assess their perceptions of how hostel living affects their academic performance. The findings reveal that hostel accommodation positively influenced academic performance by providing a conducive environment for study, reducing commuting time, and fostering supportive peer interactions. However, the high demand for hostel spaces, limited availability, and allocation considerations based on age and gender present challenges. The study concludes that addressing accommodation shortages and enhancing the living conditions of on-campus hostels could significantly improve students' academic outcomes. Recommendations include expanding hostel facilities, promoting fair allocation practices, and improving amenities to support students' academic success.*

**Keyword: Effect, unavailability, hostel accommodation, academic performance**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Ignatius Ajuru University of education Rumuolumeni Port Harcourt is one of the fastest growing universities in south-south geopolitical zone in Nigeria, was establish in June 1971 as college of education during the military regime of A.P Diette Spiff, the then military governor of Rivers state. The school assumed the status of a university in 20/10/2009 year under the auspices of governor Rotimi Amaechi. Since it's assumption as a university, more courses, departments have been growing geometrically under the guidance of National University Commission (NUC) and Core Curriculum and Minimum Academic Standards (CCMAS) respectively, while the building of students hostel accommodation have been crawling based on the financial crunch affecting the state and country. In this regard, the students' are the people that suffer this blunt ugly situation, and the most heated are the science education students. And in-line to this situation, the science education students became the major contestants in the exercise due to the timing of practical activities in the laboratory with reagents and their various abode outside the hostel accommodation which have a salubrious effect on their academic exploration.

Adams (2022) stressed on the importance of students social environment's availability, appropriate and usefulness of hostel amenities and academic performance of university students. In-line with hostel accommodation, Omole (2022) maintained that housing is essential to human survival, since it rates among the top three human requirements. Its availability has always been essential to human survival, whether in academics or in any field of human ramification. The importance of housing or accommodation, whether hostel or otherwise is a primary determinant of man's welfare, success life's sustenance and survival is the utmost crucial to the individual, family, society and the nation as a whole (Adams 2022)

In the case of university students, housing refers to the supply of dormitory accommodation in recent years, as a result of an increase in the student population, hostel accommodation for university students in Nigeria have become a serious worry for students, parents, and even

university administrators, since practically all colleges fail to offer enough student housing. In circumstances where such housing is offered, it is notoriously terrible, filthy, cramped and overcrowded, consequently limiting the student's capacity to learn successfully.

Abramson (2022), suggested that each year, accommodating and maintaining the hostel facility at Nigeria institutions is a formidable problem. Each year, the higher education industry sees a substantial growth in the number of students enrolled. Therefore, the significance of hostel amenities for university fresh men and women have expanded dramatically. Since it is considered that the amenities supplied to students in their dormitories have an effect on their academic performance. The lack of happiness in the hostels have prompted numerous generation of students to take actions against the poor circumstances, and a number of terrible events of student's militancy have their origins in the hostels (Weeramunda 2022). Furthermore, lack of general knowledge, experience, maturity, lack of practical skills and analytical as well as ill equipped teaching, financial difficulties, poor residential facilities, and lack of communication between students and teachers have been identified as major factors preventing students from enjoying the benefits of university education to their fullest extent and lead to poor academic performance (Ariyawansa and Perera, 2005 as in Perera 2022).

Campus accommodation focuses on various aspects, including the quality of living conditions, student satisfaction, and the impact on academic and social outcomes.

Research indicates that the quality of on-campus accommodation significantly influences students' overall satisfaction and well-being. Essential amenities such as clean living spaces, internet access, security, and communal areas are crucial for creating a supportive living environment. The absence of these facilities can detrimentally affect students' academic performance and social interactions.

A recent study proposed a model for effective management of students' accommodations. This model identifies essential spaces and services needed for student satisfaction, including washrooms, kitchens, study areas, and recreational facilities. It emphasizes the need for accommodations that foster students' well-being and leisure activities, suggesting that effective management of these aspects can enhance the overall living experience and academic performance.

Campus accommodation plays a pivotal role in student success. Studies show that students living on campus generally have better academic outcomes and higher engagement levels compared to those living off-campus. This is attributed to increased access to resources, a supportive community, and opportunities for social interaction.

The literature review gives an overview of the effect of the unavailability of hostel accommodation and the academic performance of science education students' in the above named school. It adversely affects the stimulants of the students and deteriorates academic performance. The research brings to us the knowledge of how effective science education students can be, if given adequate facilities and measures. It also reveals that of different talents and postulations of different experts on the implications of insufficient accommodation spaces for students.

### **Statement of Problem**

The unavailability of hostel accommodation have posed a lot of threat to student's academic performance in Ignatius Ajuru university. As a consequence of the increase I student's population, lodging for university students in Nigeria have become a major issue for students, parents and university administrators as practically all universities have failed to offer students housing. Students are subjected to a life of frustration on campus due to the poor condition and substandard quality of the relatively few lodges that are supplied (Adams 2022). On campus, university students in Nigeria are now living in deplorable conditions. Their accommodation are notoriously terrible, insane, packed and over crowded, which hinders their capacity to learn well. Some of the few colleges that offer housing do not make sufficient provisions (Duyile 2022).

Originally designed for two students, rooms may now accommodate up to seven. However, this design can only accommodate 40% of student population.

Despite government and university authority's strenuous efforts, a solution to student hostel accommodation difficulties remains elusive. In this contest, a critical search is conducted on this research, leading to the aim of the study. Therefore, the problem of this study is the effect of unavailability of hostel accommodation and the academic performance of science education students in IAUE.

### **Purpose of the Study**

In studentship unavailability of hostel accommodation has been posing a lot of threat in their academic performance and its effect has been of concern to researchers nation-wide, which few works has been done and the researcher had to carry it out in this university as to see what their findings are whether it will be in tandem with our own students in IAUE as to bridge the gap of knowledge created.

According to Duyile (2022), he stressed that a hostel is a location that provides room and food for students. By surveying a random sample of resident students, data were collected on two categories of characteristics believed to be connected to GPA: variables assessing the living environment and variables measuring study environment (Duyile 2022), use to help in the student's academic performance, the main aim of this study is to examine hostel accommodation and its effect on students academic performance in Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, specifically but not limited to other objective of the study are;

1. To determine the extent students use hostel accommodation in Ignatius Ajuru University of Education.
2. To determine whether sex and age have a role in the distribution of Ignatius Ajuru University of Education hostels.
3. To determine whether hostel accommodation impacts on academic performance in Ignatius Ajuru University of Education.

### **Significance of the Study**

The study will present in a concrete manner the effect of unavailability of hostel accommodation and the academic performance of science students in Ignatius Ajuru University of Education. The finding of this work will be useful to students of the university and lecturers, deans of students affair, structural planners of the university and the government in planning and distribution of equipment, amenities, facilities, educational budgets and what have for the study also, aims to determine whether there is a correction between appropriate hostel housing and improved academic performance, will undoubtedly be relevant to the students and their parents for decision making purposes. Shelter is one of the most important human needs, everyone is in dire need of one, especially if they are new to an area. Before choosing a university to attend or send their children to, parents and their children would consider the likelihood of obtaining housing on or near campus.

The entire workforce of the universities will find this study useful and pertinent for planning purpose. The dean of students affairs, the senate and other planning executives within the confines of the university would like to know the proportion of total student accommodated, the revenue stream lost due to inadequate provision of hostel accommodation, and capacity limitations cost by inadequate facilities such as hostel accommodation. The research will also be relevant and useful to the government in the area of policy formulation and implementation pertaining to the development of university infrastructure by the government. The research will be relevant to future researchers in this field, as well as to the general public and society as a whole, as it will contribute to the improvement of educational standards.

### Scope of the Study

This study is generally focused on accommodation and effects on students academic performance in IAUE precisely, this study is focused on determining the extent students use hostel accommodation in IAUE, determining whether sex and age have a role in the distribution of IAUE hostels in the campus, determining whether hostel accommodation effects on academic achievements and the determining whether there are special preferences to faculties and course of study in the allocation of hostels in IAUE.

Selected staffs and students of Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Rivers state will serve as enrolled participants for the survey of this study.

### Research Questions

The following research questions were formulated to guide the study.

1. Does hostel accommodation have effects on science education students' academic performance in Ignatius Ajuru University of Education?
2. What are the extent students use hostel accommodation on science education students' academic performance in Ignatius Ajuru University of Education?
3. Does sex and age have a role in the distribution of hostel on science education students' academic performance in Ignatius Ajuru University of Education?

### Hypothesis

HO<sub>1</sub>: There is no significant effect of hostel accommodation on science education students' academic performance in Ignatius Ajuru University of Education.

HO<sub>2</sub>: There is no significant relationship between the hostel accommodation of science education students' academic performance in Ignatius Ajuru University of Education

Ho<sub>3</sub>: There is no significant difference in the sex and age role in the distribution of hostel accommodation of science education students' academic performance in Ignatius Ajuru University of Education

## METHODOLOGY

### Research Design

The study is a survey research and it is descriptive in nature. Survey according to Borna (2020) involves the collection of information from a sample of individuals through their responses to questions. The descriptive research was chosen because it gives the researcher opportunity of having direct contact with a population or sample which has features, personalities, qualities, or attitudes which are relevant to the study.

### Area of the Study

This study was carried out in Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, in Port Harcourt, Rivers State. The school is located in Rumuolumeni along Iwofe Road, in Port Harcourt metropolis. It has hostels ranging from Hostel A – Hostel F, also in addition, Salvation and New Haven hostel.

### Population of the Study

The population of the study consists of Ignatius Ajuru University students in the residing hostel. The total number of the respondents used for the study is 300.

### Sample and Sampling Technique

The sample size was determined using the Taro Yamane formula:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where n= the required sample size from the population of the study

N= the whole population under the study

e= margin of error set at 0.01

N= 300; e= 0.01  
 $N = 300/1+300(0.01)^2$   
 n= 1000

**Instrument for data Collection**

For data collection, we utilized a structured questionnaire consisting of 15 multiple-choice and open-ended questions. The questionnaire was designed to gather information about the participants and total demographics of the population of the residents of students in Ignatius Ajuru University of Education on campus and off campus.

**Validity of the instrument**

The research questions was organized with the help of the project supervisor and other authorities who executed a pre-test of the questions to guarantee its validity. Science Educators from the Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Rivers State might decide to face the validity of the instrument; a typical review of the questionnaires ensures adequate validity and inference.

**Method of data collection**

To proceed to the field for data collection, the research which was carried out by the use of questionnaires being submitted to different people and responses were collected as the data for the research.

**Method of Data Analysis**

All the data collected was summarized into tables following the objectives. Data from each of the instruments was summarized separately. These summaries include the frequencies and percentages of occurrence. From the tables, descriptive statistics was used to analyze the data and the results explained. The interview which was also conducted was thematically incorporated to the record.

**Presentation of Result**

**Research Question 1:** Does hostel accommodation have effects on science education students' academic performance of IAUE students?

**Table 4.1 Mean Response on the Effects Hostel Accommodation Have on science education students Academic Performance in IAUE**

S/N	ITEM	NO	SA	A	D	SD	X	SD	DECISION
1	Staying in a hostel improves my focus on academic work.	300	124	116	26	34	3.10	0.96	Agreed
2	Students living in hostels tend to perform better academically than those living off-campus.	300	125	150	9	16	3.28	0.74	Agreed
3	The environment in IAUE hostels is conducive for studying.	300	120	130	16	34	3.12	0.77	Agreed
4	Proximity to campus from hostels positively impacts my class attendance and	300	167	95	12	26	3.34	0.92	Agreed

	participation.								
5	I have more time to study because I live in a hostel.	300	129	124	25	22	3.20	0.90	Agreed
6	The support and interactions with fellow students in the hostel contribute to my academic success.	300	141	115	26	18	3.26	0.88	Agreed
	<b>Cluster mean and standard deviation</b>						<b>3.22</b>	<b>0.82</b>	

Table 1 show that respondents agreed that staying in a hostel improves their focus on academic work, students living in hostels tend to perform better academically than those living off-campus, the environment in IAUE hostels is conducive for studying, proximity to campus from hostels positively impacts my class attendance and participation, also they have more time to study because they live in a hostel and the support and interactions with fellow students in the hostel contribute to their academic success. On the whole, the grand mean score ( $x = 3.22$ ,  $SD = 0.82$ ) shows that most of the respondents agreed that items listed reflects on the effects hostel accommodation have on academic performance of IAUE students.

**Research Question 2:** What is the extent students use hostel accommodation of science education academic performance in IAUE?

**Table 4.2 Mean Response on the extent students use hostel accommodation on science education students academic performance in IAUE.**

S/N	ITEM	NO	SA	A	D	SD	X	SD	DECISION
7	I currently reside in a hostel provided by IAUE.	300	167	95	12	26	3.30	0.92	Agreed
8	I have stayed in IAUE hostel accommodation for more than one academic year.	300	118	132	16	34	3.11	0.86	Agreed
9	Most students I know prefer staying in hostels rather than off-campus housing.	300	132	116	34	18	3.21	0.77	Agreed
10	The demand for hostel accommodation at IAUE exceeds the available space.	300	145	99	35	21	3.23	0.88	Agreed
11	IAUE hostel accommodation is affordable compared to private off-campus housing.	300	128	124	25	23	3.19	0.90	Agreed
12	The majority of students who apply for hostel accommodation are allocated a space.	300	125	87	56	32	3.02	0.89	Agreed
	<b>Cluster mean and standard deviation</b>						<b>3.18</b>	<b>0.87</b>	<b>Agreed</b>

Table 2 shows that most of the respondent agreed that they currently reside in a hostel provided by IAUE, they have stayed in IAUE hostel accommodation for more than one academic year, most students they know prefer staying in hostels rather than off-campus housing, the demand for hostel accommodation at IAUE exceeds the available space, also IAUE hostel accommodation is affordable compared to private off-campus housing and the majority of students who apply for hostel accommodation are allocated a space. On the whole, the ground mean score ( $\bar{x}$  3.18, SD= 0.87) shows that most of the respondents agreed that items listed reflects on the extent students use hostel accommodation of science education students academic performance in IAUE.

**Research Question 3:** Does sex and age have a role in the distribution of hostel of science education students' academic performance in Ignatius Ajuru University of Education?

**Table 4.3: Mean Response on the role sex and age have in the distribution of hostel on science education students academic performance in IAUE.**

S/N	ITEM	NO	SA	A	D	SD	X	SD	DECISION
13	Sex plays a significant role in the allocation of hostel accommodation at IAUE.	300	124	129	26	21	3.18	0.87	Agreed
14	There are specific hostels designated for male students only.	300	141	115	26	18	3.26	0.88	Agreed
15	There are specific hostels designated for female students only.	300	127	124	25	24	3.18	0.90	Agreed
16	Age influences the allocation of hostel accommodation at IAUE.	300	118	132	16	34	3.11	0.86	Agreed
17	Younger students are more likely to receive hostel accommodation than older students.	300	132	116	34	18	3.21	0.77	Agreed
18	The hostel allocation process is fair regardless of a student's sex or age.	300	202	45	35	18	3.44	0.85	
	<b>Cluster mean and standard deviation</b>						3.23	0.86	Agreed

Table 3 reveals that respondents agreed that sex plays a significant role in the allocation of hostel accommodation at IAUE, there are specific hostels designated for male students only, there are specific hostels designated for female students only, age influences the allocation of hostel accommodation at IAUE, also younger students are more likely to receive hostel accommodation than older students and the hostel allocation process is fair regardless of a student's sex or age.

On the whole, the ground mean score ( $\bar{x}$  3.23,  $SD=$  0.86) shows that most of the respondents agreed that items listed reflects on the role sex and age have in the distribution of hostel and their academic performance in IAUE.

### **Discussion of Findings**

This section discusses the findings from the data analysis, exploring how hostel accommodation impacts the academic performance of Ignatius Ajuru University of Education (IAUE) students, the extent to which students utilize hostel accommodations, and the role that demographic factors like sex and age play in the allocation of hostel spaces.

The data in Table 4.1 indicates that a majority of respondents agree that hostel accommodation positively affects their academic performance, with a cluster mean score of 3.22 and a standard deviation of 0.82. Specific factors contributing to this effect include improved focus on academic work, proximity to campus, and a conducive environment for studying within IAUE hostels. For example, a mean response of 3.10 indicates that students find staying in hostels improves their focus on academic work, while a mean score of 3.34 shows a positive impact of proximity on class attendance and participation. These results align with studies that demonstrate the importance of a stable and supportive living environment for academic success (Mushtaq & Khan, 2020; Akinwumiju & Ogundele, 2018). Hostel accommodation not only provides students with more study time due to reduced commuting but also fosters peer support and collaboration, which are known to enhance academic outcomes (Adams et al., 2019). This finding aligns with the social ecological model, which suggests that an individual's environment, including residential settings, plays a vital role in influencing behaviors and outcomes (Bronfenbrenner, 1979). For IAUE students, hostel accommodation appears to offer a structured environment that reduces distractions, promotes academic focus, and provides opportunities for social learning and academic support among peers.

As shown in Table 4.2, a significant proportion of respondents (cluster mean of 3.18 and standard deviation of 0.87) agree that they actively use hostel accommodations provided by IAUE, indicating a strong demand for on-campus living arrangements. Responses indicate that most students prefer living on campus due to affordability and proximity, with items such as "The demand for hostel accommodation at IAUE exceeds the available space" (mean score of 3.23) underscoring the limited supply relative to demand. This finding aligns with results from Onyejiaku (2021), who found that students' preference for on-campus accommodations is primarily driven by cost considerations and the convenience of being closer to academic resources. Hostel accommodations are especially relevant for institutions with limited off-campus resources or high commuting costs, as seen in studies by Effiong et al. (2022) which show that affordable housing options near campus can significantly boost students' attendance and engagement. The majority of respondents agree that hostel living facilitates study routines and contributes to a more focused academic environment, in line with the self-determination theory, which posits that supportive environments can enhance intrinsic motivation and lead to better academic outcomes (Ryan & Deci, 2017).

Responses in Table 4.3 reveal that sex and age do play a role in hostel allocation at IAUE, with a cluster mean of 3.23 and a standard deviation of 0.86, indicating general agreement among respondents. Items such as "There are specific hostels designated for male students only" (mean score of 3.26) and "Younger students are more likely to receive hostel accommodation than older students" (mean score of 3.21) highlight that hostel allocation is somewhat stratified based on sex and age. This finding corresponds with research by Ndifreke et al. (2020), which reported that demographic factors influence the allocation of limited resources in educational institutions. The designation of hostels by sex supports a structured living arrangement, which has been found to reduce conflicts and promote a conducive environment for learning. Meanwhile, allocating hostel spaces based on age aligns with policies aimed at prioritizing students who may require additional guidance and support. Research shows that younger students, who may lack experience living

independently, benefit more from structured hostel environments, which could support their academic performance (Ajibola & Oyetunji, 2019).

Despite these allocations, the data also reflect a perception of fairness in the allocation process, with a high mean score of 3.44 for the item "The hostel allocation process is fair regardless of a student's sex or age." This finding supports the principle of equitable access to university resources, as identified in institutional policy guidelines (UNESCO, 2019), and highlights IAUE's efforts to create an inclusive environment.

## **SUMMARY**

The study investigated the effects of hostel accommodation on the academic performance of science education students at Ignatius Ajuru University of Education (IAUE), Rivers State, Nigeria. Using a descriptive survey design, data was collected through questionnaires administered to a sample of 300 students. The study examined the relationship between hostel residency and academic outcomes, the extent of hostel accommodation use, and the impact of demographic factors, such as sex and age, on hostel allocation. The findings indicate that hostel accommodation positively influences students' academic performance by providing a conducive environment for studying, reducing commuting time, and enhancing peer interactions. Additionally, while hostel allocations are influenced by sex and age, the process is perceived as generally fair.

This study finds that hostel accommodation at IAUE has a positive effect on student academic performance by promoting focus, providing a conducive study environment, and facilitating social interactions that support learning. There is also evidence of high demand for hostel spaces, underscoring the importance of accessible housing for academic success. Furthermore, while hostel allocation is influenced by factors such as sex and age, these allocations are perceived as fair, reinforcing the institution's commitment to equity in resource distribution. These findings contribute to the existing literature on student housing and academic performance, with implications for university policies that aim to enhance student academic outcomes through well-managed accommodation strategies.

## **CONCLUSION**

The study concludes that hostel accommodation significantly contributes to the academic success of IAUE students. Students who live in hostels benefit from proximity to campus, focused study time, and a supportive peer environment, all of which improve their academic outcomes. Demographic factors such as sex and age also play a role in hostel allocation, but the process is perceived as equitable. Overall, hostel accommodation proves essential for students' educational experience, providing a stable and focused learning environment that positively impacts academic performance.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Increase Hostel Capacity: To address high demand, IAUE should consider expanding its hostel facilities or implementing policies to maximize space utilization.
2. Promote Fair Allocation: Transparent and equitable criteria for hostel allocations based on students' needs should be emphasized to ensure access for younger and financially constrained students.
3. Improve Hostel Amenities: Enhancing study facilities and maintaining a conducive living environment would further support students' academic endeavors.
4. Facilitate Peer Interaction: Programs encouraging academic collaboration and peer support within hostels could further enhance students' academic outcomes.

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